

Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris

Performance on 42nd
presents

Pheeroan akLaff
Global Mantras

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1998, 7:30 PM

Pheeroan akLaff

Global Mantras

performing with

Lyndon Achée, Michael Cain, Ed Cherry, and Hill Greene

AkLaff and his ensemble will perform excerpts from his new CD, *Global Mantras*, as well as a selection of recently composed pieces. The evening's program highlights akLaff's fusion of various Asian musical forms with his own adventurous percussive style. This performance has been organized in conjunction with Ming Fay's exhibition *Garden of Qián*, on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris through April 17, 1998.

Pheeroan akLaff, drummer of choice for many prominent bandleaders, is recognized for his virtuosity in alternating between mainstream and vanguard musical styles. He began performing internationally in concert and on recordings in 1975, and first received national attention playing the extremely spare music of Leo Smith. Born in 1955 in Detroit, akLaff grew up listening to such musical talents as Clifford Brown, Max Roach, Thelonious Monk, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. In addition, his work has been strongly influenced by time spent working and traveling abroad in Africa and Asia. Since 1978 he has been based in New York, where he has performed at the Knitting Factory, Sweet Basil, and Lincoln Center, among other venues. He has also played throughout the United States as well as Europe, Australia, and Japan. The accomplished figures of the jazz avant-garde with whom he has performed or recorded include Anthony Braxton, Anthony Davis, Marty Ehrlich, Andrew Hill, Oliver Lake, Leo Smith, Cecil Taylor, Henry Threadgill, Mal Waldron, and Yosuke Yamashita. His most recent release is *Global Mantras* (1998, Win-k Music). Previous recordings as a leader and composer include *Sonogram* (1989, Mu Works), *Fits Like a Glove* (1983, Gramavision), and *House of Spirit Mirth* (1981, Passin' Thru). He currently teaches at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

Program is subject to change. No unauthorized photographing, videotaping, or audio recording of the performance is permitted.

Percussionist **Lyndon Achee** received a BFA in jazz and contemporary music at Parsons School of Design and is presently an MA candidate in ethnomusicology at New York University. He has performed professionally in New York since 1992 and has participated in events at the 92nd Street Y and the Lincoln Center Summer Concert series. In the last five years, Achee has played or recorded with Anthony Braxton, Jay Hoggard, Eric Leed, David Pleasant, Arnie Lawrence, Winston Grenan, and Village Drums of Freedom.

Pianist **Michael Cain** received extensive training in both classical and jazz music while studying at North Texas State University, the University of Southern California, and the California Institute of the Arts, where he received his Masters degree in Music. In graduate school, he began studying the music of Ghana, Bali, and India and developing a personal style that melded these various musical forms with Western influences. Cain has performed and recorded with the Anthony Cox Quartet, Dave Holland's Quartet, Jack DeJohnette's Special Edition, and Steps Ahead as well as with Robin Eubanks, Craig Harris, Bobby McFerrin, Bobby Previte, Charles Neville, Vernon Reid, John Scofield, and Gary Thomas. His discography is comprised of more than twenty-one recordings, including four as a leader. His most recent CD, *Circa* (1997, ECM), featured his trio with Ralph Alessi and Peter Epstein. Cain currently teaches at the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston.

Best known as "Dizzy's guitarist," **Ed Cherry** played with Dizzy Gillespie from 1978 until 1993. He has also performed with numerous other musicians, such as Kenny Burrell, Ruth Brown, Steven Coleman, Paquito D'Riveria, Roy Hargrove, Carmen McCrae, Jimmy Smith, Henry Threadgill, and Sarah Vaughan. Cherry attended the Berklee College of Music, Boston, and studied privately with Bruce Johnson and Ted Dunbar. His musical influences include Louis Armstrong, James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, Pat Marino, and Muddy Waters. His two CDs, *First Take* and *A Second Look*, are recorded on the Polygram France label, Groovin High. Cherry currently teaches music at the Henry Street Settlement in New York.

Bassist **Hill Greene** studied at the Berklee College of Music and the University of Northern Iowa and has been playing professionally for twenty years in jazz, rock, classical, blues, and R&B. He performs widely in the New York City area as well as in major cities throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, and South America. He has performed or recorded with such important figures as Rashied Ali, Cindy Blackman, Charles Gayle, Leroy Jenkins, Jimmy Ponder, Jimmy Scott, Cecil Taylor, and Jacky Terrasson.

Performance on 42nd is a program of the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris offering free music, dance, and theater performances to the public.

Coming Up Next:

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company
April 15, 7:30 pm

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